



## PARRA NOTES

Friday, June 24

It was another crazy week that consisted of the usual running to and from committee hearings and meetings. Monday was no exception. I got to address members of the **30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District Valley Leadership Institute (VLI)** in **Sacramento**. I established this institute to encourage interest in the formation of public policy that affects the Central Valley. Immediately after my address to the VLI, I met with students from the **Kings County 4H**. Taking part in the meeting was **Cheryl Mattos, Natalie Mattos, Kayla Bradley** and **Hannah Andrews**. It's always nice to see youth from the Central Valley come up and lobby me about the issues they care about. During our meeting they stressed that I continue to support agriculture, specifically agriculture education.

Later in the week, I had the great honor of meeting with several **Central Valley youth** visiting the Capitol to take part in Boys State. I also had the pleasure of meeting with **Derek Robinson, Alan Montes, Tim Holliday** and various other firefighters from the **Kern County Firefighters Union**.

### Legislative Update

Five of my bills went before various Senate Committees this week with much success as they were all approved. Below you will find a brief description of those bills. If you need further information please feel free to contact me at any of my offices listed below.

**AB 460 Vet Quarantine** will strengthen the ability for the State Veterinarian to implement quarantines to stop any outbreak from spreading rapidly. The bill will act as a preventative measure by creating standards for sanitation.

\*Approved by the Senate Agriculture Committee. Headed to the Senate Health Committee.

**AB 490 Notice to Bid** will expand the bidding pool for school district contracts by requiring that bid notices be placed in construction trade journals, giving school districts more flexibility in selecting contracts. Current law requires only the placement of notices in local newspapers.

\*Approved by the Senate Education Committee. Headed to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

**AB 520 Ag Commissioner** will allow County Agriculture Commissioners to impose fines to any person for misuse of the "California Grown" seal. No monetary penalties currently exist.

\*Approved by the Senate Agriculture Committee. Headed to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

**AB 706 CSU Whistleblower Protections** will allow the Cal State University system to shield an employee's identity and confidentiality, in order to avoid retaliation when filing a complaint

\*Approved by the Senate Education Committee. Headed to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

**AB 1542 Judge Discretion on Sentencing** will authorize judges to refer veterans diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and have been convicted of certain crimes to treatment programs in lieu of incarceration.

\*Approved by the Senate Public Safety Committee. Headed to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

## **Other Highlights**

### **PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY GROUP**

The second Southern District Public Safety Advisory Group meeting will be held today, **Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** at the Kern County Housing Authority located at 601 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Bakersfield. Mike Dayton, Deputy Director for the State Office of Homeland Security, will give a presentation and answer any questions you may have. For more information please contact **Manuel Barrera** at **(661)334-3745**.

### **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TOWN HALL**

The Domestic Violence Town Hall held this past Saturday in Bakersfield was an emotional experience and a huge success. Women from all walks of life shared with us their most private experiences as victims of domestic violence. After listening to their stories, I can honestly say that we all walked away with a different perspective. Domestic violence isn't an issue attributed to any one social class or race. This is simply an issue that one day can personally touch any of us, male or female, rich or poor.

If you or anybody you know needs counseling, protective order assistance, hospital accompaniment or a safe place to stay, please contact any of the hotlines listed below.

**Alliance Against Family Violence & Sexual Assault (Kern County):** 1-800-273-7713

**Fresno County Majaree Mason Center:** 1-800-640-0333

**Kings County Community Action Organization:** 1-877-727-3225

**Tulare County Family Violence Hotline:** 1-800- 448-2044

**National Hotline for Domestic Violence:** 1-800-799-7233

### **VALLEY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE**

Finally, after much anticipation, the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual 30th Assembly District Valley Leadership Institute (VLI) came to Sacramento this week from Monday – Wednesday. The VLI brought Central Valley residents to the State's Capitol to learn about the democratic process and the key issues affecting the Central Valley. Participants attended committee hearings and met with various legislative and administration officials including Cabinet Secretary for Governor Schwarzenegger Terry Tamminen, State Senator Liz Figueroa, Assemblywoman Cindy Montanez, Deputy Secretary of Legislation for the Agency of Business, Transportation and Housing Curt Augustine, Undersecretary for the California Department of Food and Agriculture A.J. Yates and Legislative Analyst Elizabeth Hill.

### **NEW STAFFERS JOIN PARRA TEAM**

This week I had the pleasure of welcoming three new individuals to my Sacramento Staff. Coming on board as my new Executive Secretary is **Ellen Manolis**. Ellen was most recently with the Sacramento-based commercial real estate law firm Craig & Sackheim, LLP. Joining me as my new Staff Assistant is **Tulare** native **Michael Tamariz**. Michael attended **Tulare**

**Union High School, Bakersfield College** and has recently graduated from the University of California Berkeley. Last, but certainly not least is **Hanford** native **Beth Sequeria**. Beth comes on board as our new Capitol summer intern. She graduated in 2002 from **Hanford High School** and is currently attending Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo where she is majoring in Agriculture Communications.

#### **HEALTH ADVISORY GROUP**

The **Office of Statewide Planning and Development (OSHDP)** has offered to participate in a conference call to be held on **Tuesday, June 28** from **10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** with members of my Health Advisory Group and anyone else interested. They will inform us on the various services their agency offers. If you are interested in participating please contact **Frank Stiger** at **(559) 585-7170** or by e-mail at [Frank.Stiger@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Frank.Stiger@asm.ca.gov)

#### **FOSTER CARE CONFERENCE**

On **July 9<sup>th</sup>**, I will be hosting a Foster Care Conference at **California State University Bakersfield's Student Union Building** from **9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Registration begins at **8:00 a.m.** Joining me will be several organizations who will inform foster care youth and parents of available resources and rights. This event is open to the public. For more information please contact Juan Cerda at my Bakersfield District office at **(661) 334-3745** or by e-mail at [Juan.Cerda@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Juan.Cerda@asm.ca.gov).

#### **SUMMER INTERNS WANTED**

I am presently accepting applications for my summer internship program in my Hanford and Bakersfield district offices. Candidates should be residents of the 30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, possess solid research and communication skills, have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the Central Valley.

Applications can be found at <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>. For more details, please contact Richard Valle at the Hanford office at **(559) 585-7170** or by e-mail at [Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov). For Bakersfield office internships please contact **Manuel Barrera** at **(661) 334-3745** or by e-mail at [Manuel.Barrera@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Manuel.Barrera@asm.ca.gov)

#### **GRANTS**

Beginning late June my office will be distributing grant packages. Included in the package will be information regarding, state, federal and private grants. For more information please contact Juan Cerda at **(661) 334-3745** or by e-mail at [Juan.Cerda@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Juan.Cerda@asm.ca.gov)

#### How to Contact Me

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